

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /064 W

-----044691 152315Z /66

O 152230Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1626

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 5031

BRIDGETOWN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, SOPN

SUBJECT: EL CARIBE REPORT AND EDITORIAL RE AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S
VIEWS ON COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

1. EL CARIBE (WHOSE DIRECTOR, GERMAN ORNES, IS CHAIRMAN OF THE
PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE OF THE IAPA AND IS A STRONG OPPONENT OF
THE PROPOSED UNESCO RESOLUTION RE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR
MEDIA OUTPUT) CARRIES FOLLOWING NEWS STORY AND EDITORIAL IN ITS
AUGUST 15 EDITION. EMBASSY HAD NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF REPORTED
REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO EL CARIBE EDITORS.

2. NEWS STORY: QUOTE: YOUNG SUPPORTS UNESCO REGULATE WORLD PRESS
---- BY MANUEL PEREZ SANTANA.

THE AMBASSADOR OF THE USA TO THE UN SHOWED HIMSELF TO BE IN FAVOR
OF THE INSTALLATION OF STATE CONTROLS OVER THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG SAID THAT HE FAVORED EFFORTS WHICH WILL
BE MADE WITHIN UNESCO TO AUTHORIZE GOVERNMENTS TO IMPOSE CONTROLS
OVER COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

"THAT IS VERY GOOD" SAID YOUNG "BECAUSE THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA
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ARE VERY POWERFUL". THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, WHO HEADS A MISSION
WHICH HAS BEEN VISITING THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN ZONE, WAS
QUESTIONED BY EDITORS OF EL CARIBE ABOUT THE MERITS OF PROPOSAL
PENDING BEFORE UNESCO IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

YOUNG SAID THAT A COMMITTEE, WHICH HE CALLED "OF WISE MEN", WILL
RECOMMEND THE FINAL DESIGNATION TO BE GIVEN TO A RESOLUTION OF

SOVIET INSPIRATION WHICH WAS POSTPONED IN THE LAST SESSION OF UNESCO. THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE SOVIET UNION IS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO COMBAT MILITARISTIC PROPAGANDA, RACISM AND APARTHEID. HOWEVER, ONE OF ITS ARTICLES PROVIDES THAT THE CONDUCT OF THE PRESS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENTS. THAT CLAUSE WAS OPPOSED, IN THE UNESCO ASSEMBLY HELD IN NAIROBI, BY DELEGATIONS OF DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THAT OF THE US.

IT REMAINS HOWEVER ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXTT ASSEMBLY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN 1978.

RECENTLY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO, AMADOU MATAR M'BOW ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD DESIGNATED A SPECIAL DOMMITTEE WHICH MUST GIVE ITS OPINION ON THE SOVIET PROJECT WHICH APPARENTLY COUNTS ON THE APPROVAL OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

AS OF YESTERDAY IT IS NOT KNOWN WHO WILL MAKE UP THE COMMITTEE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD HOWEVER THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE US WILL BE MR ELI ABEL, DEAN OF SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM OF UNIVERSITY OF COLUMBIA IN NEW YORK.

IT COULD NOT BE LEARNED YESTERDAY WHETHER AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, MR YOUNG, HAS JURISDICTION OVER UNESCO WHICH IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL AFFILIATES WITH THE UN.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE FOLLOWED THE CAREER OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG,
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ESPECIALLY IN THE RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS, SAID HERE YESTERDAY THAT HIS ATTITUDE DOES NOT SURPISE THEM. NOT LONG AGO MR YOUNG SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A REINTERPRETATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONSITUION WHICH GUARANTEES IN ABSOLUTE FORM THAT IN THAT COUNTRY NO LAW RESTRICTING LIBERTY OF THE PRESS WILL BE PASSED. THAT REINTERPRETATION IN THE OPINION OF MR YOUNG IS NECESSARY TO BRAKE WHAT HE CONSIDERS AN EXCESSIVE POWER OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

THE STATEMENTS MADE HERE BY MR YOUNG ARE INTERPRETED AS A REITERATION OF A THOUGHT WHICH HE HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.

BETWEEN MR YOUNG AND THE PRESS OF HIS COUNTRY THERE HAS BEEN A CERTAIN TENSION DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE AMBASSADOR IS VERY GIVEN TO SAYING THINGS THAT LATER REQUIRE RETRACTIONS ON THE PART OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. THIS HOWEVER HAS CAUSED NO EBBING OF THE CONFIDENCE WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY HAS IN HIM. UNQUOTE.

3. EDITORIAL: QUOTE: UNFORTUNATE DECLARATION.

THE US DELEGATION TO THE UNESCO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NAIROBI IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR ROUNDLY OPPOSED A SOVIET RESOLUTION

WHICH UNDER THE CONTEXT OF COMBATING RACISM AND MILITARISM WOULD ESTABLISH OFFICIAL CONTROLS OVER THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

"THE ENEMIES OF THIS DANGEROUS DECLARATION DID NOT SUCCEED IN DEFEATING IT. THE QUESTION WAS POSTPONED FOR THE 1978 ASSEMBLY. MEANWHILE, THE PROBLEM MUST BE STUDIED BY A SMALL GROUP OF EXPERTS SELECTED FROM AMONG PERSONS WHO ARE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY THE US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, MR ANDREW YOUNG, REPLIED TO QUESTIONS OF AN EDITOR OF THIS NEWSPAPER IN A FORM DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE POSITION WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT TOOK BEFORE THE NAIROBI MEETING. IN HIS REPLY HE SHOWED HIMSELF IN FAVOR OF THE EFFORT BEING MADE WITHIN UNESCO TO IMPOSE CONTROLS OVER THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA BECAUSE HE ALLEGED THAT THEY WERE "VERY POWERFUL."

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"THAT IS AN OPINION VERY MUCH IN STYLE AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF TOTALITARIAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS DICTATORS WHO OPPRESS THE THIRD WORLD BUT FROM THE LIPS OF AN IMPORTANT AND INFLUENTIAL DIPLOMAT OF A DEMOCRATIC NATION LIKE THE US IT IS, TO BE VERY COURTEOUS, UNFORTUNATE. AND IN OUR VIEW THE TERM IS APPLICABLE EVEN IN CASE MR YOUNG WAS EXPRESSING A STRICTLY PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW.

"GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE US AS THE GREATEST DEMOCRATIC POWER OF THE WORLD, AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S DECLARATION IS ALSO TROUBLING, AND HOPEFULLY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL EXPLAIN WHETHER MR YOUNG REFLECTS THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF HIS COUNTRY. END QUOTE.

HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA, PRESS CONFERENCES, RESOLUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Line Count: 151
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1601915
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EL CARIBE REPORT AND EDITORIAL RE AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VIEWS ON COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA
TAGS: PORG, SOPN, DR, US, UNESCO, EL CARIBE, (YOUNG, ANDREW)
To: STATE BRIDGETOWN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b12b635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009